

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 1 through 17 are pending in the application and the Examiner rejected all claims.

Claim Rejections, 35 U.S.C. §101

At items 3 and 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §101. The claims have been amended as recommended by the Examiner. Applicant submits that this overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §101.

Rejection of Claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over TOBAC: A Test Case Browser for Testing Object Oriented Software, by Ernst Siepmann et al., ACM 1998 ('TOBAC') in view of TETware Test Case Software from the Open Group, 1998 ('TETware').

The Present Invention

The present invention is a method, apparatus, and computer program product to facilitate automated testing of multiple software products operating on multiple platforms. The present invention allows for the testing process to be conducted remotely, which enables the software products to exist on a variety of computers located at various locations.

According to the present invention, a series of databases is provided. These databases contain information vital to the testing process. Information concerning the attributes of the various products that are subject to test is stored in a database, herein referred to as the Product Description Database. Information concerning the various execution platforms is stored in a database, herein referred to as the Platform Preference Database. Information about the various test cases are stored in a database, herein referred to as the Test Definition Database. Finally, the test result information is stored in a database, herein referred to as the Test Result Database.

To allow a user to interface with the present invention, a user interface is provided. This allows the user to launch desired testing processes, and monitor test results. Because the present invention is designed for remote testing, the user can interface the system via an internet browser.

The present invention retrieves a test case that has been selected by the user from the Test Definition Database, places it in a queue (herein referred to as the Test Execution Queue), and then executes each test case by remotely running each test case at a specified time through the product that is the desired object of the particular test case. When the results of each test are returned, they are processed to compare them with the expected or desired output. The final processed results are then stored in the Test Results Database as well as being returned to the user.

TOBAC: A Test Case Browser for Testing Object Oriented Software, by Ernst Siepmann et al., ACM 1998

TOBAC: A Test Case Browser for Testing Object Oriented Software, by Ernst Siepmann et al., ACM 1998 ('TOBAC') teaches a test case browser. This test case browser is part of a test

management system for object oriented software. The browser is used to define, manage and execute test cases. The main benefit of TOBAC is support for regression testing of complex objects. TOBAC is also self-adaptable to the structure of an arbitrary complex object (TOBAC, Abstract, pg 154).

TETware Test Case Software from the Open Group, 1998

TETware Test Case Software from the Open Group, 1998 ('TETware') teaches a uniform framework, or test scaffold, into which both non-distributed and distributed test suites can be incorporated. By providing such a scaffold, test suites from different vendors can share a common interface allowing for, among other things, ease of portability (TETware, Introduction, pg 3).

The Examiner has not Established a *prima facie* Case of Obviousness

As set forth in the MPEP:

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skilled in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings.

MPEP 2143

Neither of the prior art references, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest the claimed invention.

As indicated above in the summary of the present invention, the present invention introduces the idea of specifying a time for the execution of the test case. Specifically, claim 1 states the limitation of:

“executing said test case contained on said list automatically at specified times”

Each additional independent claim (claims 7 and 13) state a similar limitation. It is this limitation that patentably defines the present invention over the prior art, including TOBAC and TETware.

The Examiner looks to TETware to teach executing the test cases at specified times, specifically referring to the use of Synchronisation daemon “tetsyncd” and Execution Results daemon “tetsresd” (pages 45-47). However, nowhere does TETware disclose or reasonably suggest specifying a time for the execution of a test case. TETware instead refers to “Test Case synchronisation” where steps of execution are delayed at certain times during test case execution, so as to ensure that test case parts running on the various systems keep in step with each other. This, however, is not executing at specified times. In fact, it teaches towards executing at times when it is synchronized with other systems, regardless of when the test case was added to the queue.

Additionally, the Examiner looks to TOBAC to teach the claimed limitations that are not taught in TETware. TOBAC, though, makes no mention of specifying a time of execution for a test case. TETware is merely directed towards a portion of a test case suite, in this case the browser. Thereby, no combination of TOBAC in view of TETware, whether taken alone or in combination, teach or reasonably suggest the present claimed invention.

As each independent claim specifically states the limitation of specifying a time for the execution of the test case, and TOBAC and TETware, either alone or in combination, fail to teach or

reasonably suggest this limitation, claims 1-17 patentably define over TOBAC in view of TETware, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections to claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over TOBAC in view of TETware.

Conclusion


The present invention is not taught or suggested by the prior art. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims. An early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 09-0461.

Respectfully submitted

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Date



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